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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

BURUNDI – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

July 19, 2005

Note: The last situation report was dated February 17, 2005.

BACKGROUND

Since 1993, armed conflict in Burundi has claimed 300,000 lives and displaced 1.3 million people. Despite recent progress towards peace and stability, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that approximately 117,000 Burundians remain displaced, living in 160 camps throughout Burundi. An additional 750,000 Burundians live as refugees, with the majority residing in neighboring Tanzania. While approximately 90,000 Burundian refugees repatriated in 2004, residual uncertainty regarding Burundi's political transition and security situation continues to hinder the pace of voluntary returns from camps in western Tanzania.

Approximately 14 percent of Burundi's 6.8 million people are Tutsi, while 85 percent are Hutu, and 1 percent is Twa (Batwa). Prior to the current power-sharing transitional government, the Tutsi minority had maintained power almost continuously since national independence in 1962. The current cycle of violence began in 1993 when members of the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, a Hutu. In August 2000, 19 Burundian political parties signed the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement (APRA), agreeing to democratic elections and an ethnically balanced army and legislature and. In November 2001, President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, became the first leader of the transitional government, and in April 2003, Hutu leader Domitien Ndayizeye assumed the presidency for the second half of the three year transition. In October 2003, the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) peacekeeping force began to assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of opposition forces. On June 1, 2004, the U.N. Mission in Burundi (ONUB) assumed peacekeeping duties from the AMIB and recently extended to remain in Burundi until December 1, 2005.

Since 2000, two major armed groups that did not sign the APRA reached separate agreements with the GOB. In November 2003, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) signed a comprehensive peace agreement with the GOB which led to the inclusion of the CNDD-FDD in the current Transitional Government. On May 15, 2005, the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) reached an agreement on cessation of hostilities with the Transitional Government; however, a comprehensive peace agreement between the parties has yet to be reached.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	116,799	OCHA – May 2005
Refugees in Burundi	38,300—primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	UNHCR – January 2005
Burundian Refugees	750,000—primarily in Tanzania ¹	UNHCR – April 2005
Refugees Repatriated Since 2001 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returns)	2001-2003: 148,000 2004: 90,320 2005 to date: 16,203 Total to date: 250,661	OCHA – July 2005

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi (to date)\$4,776,198
Total FY 2005 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi (to date)\$47,829,098

CURRENT SITUATION

Political transition. The political transition in Burundi progressed significantly from January to July 2005. On February 28, after two postponements, the Burundian population voted to endorse the post-transition constitution, which the Constitutional Court formally adopted on March 6. Communal elections took place on June 3 with minor incidents of violence reported in Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza provinces. In legislative elections held on July 4, the former rebel party CNDD-

FDD won approximately 60 percent of the vote and gained control over the National Assembly. According to the current electoral calendar, senatorial elections will take place on July 29 and subsequent presidential elections on August 19.

Population movements. From January 1 to July 10, UNHCR registered a total of 15,439 facilitated and 971 spontaneous refugee returns to Burundi, primarily from

¹ According to UNHCR, approximately 240,000 registered Burundians refugees live in formal camps, 200,000 non-registered refugees live in settlements, and an unknown number of Burundians are permanently integrated into cities and villages in Tanzania.

Tanzania. The rate of return was lower than in 2004 mostly due to perceived insecurity and uncertainty regarding the political transition. UNHCR forecasts that the number of returnees may rise in beginning in September after the presidential elections and before the beginning of the school year and Season A planting.

From February to May, OCHA conducted a National IDP Survey throughout Burundi. The results of the survey indicated that the total population of IDPs living in camps had decreased from 145,034 in mid 2004 to 116,799 in 2005, and that the number of camps also dropped from 170 to 160. Survey findings pointed to a higher rate of return among IDPs in southern and southeastern Burundi, while IDPs in northern and central provinces preferred to remain at displacement sites. According to the survey, approximately 58 percent of the total IDP population was concentrated in the provinces of Gitega, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kayanza, and Kirundo in north and central Burundi.

While overall displacement due to armed conflict decreased since 2004, recurrent waves of population movement continued in the northern provinces. According to OCHA, approximately 9,000 people migrated from northern provinces, primarily Kirundo, Muyinga, and Ngozi, to eastern provinces in successive waves between October 2004 and May 2005.

Displacement in Bubanza Province. Approximately 5,000 families fled their homes in Mpanda and Rugazi communes in Bubanza Province due to insecurity associated with the June 3 communal elections. Following a rapid assessment in the communes, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) identified shelter and relief supplies as the most immediate needs of the displaced. Results of a U.N. joint mission assessment conducted June 15-22 indicated that approximately 23,000 people remained displaced in the Mpanda, Rugazi and Musigati communes due to continued fighting. According to OCHA, some of the IDPs have returned home permanently while others returned periodically for provisions. According to the USAID/OFDA representative in Bujumbura, USAID/OFDA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed vital emergency relief supplies to the affected population and Action Contre la Faim (ACF) conducted assessments to monitor the nutritional status of the IDPs.

Insecurity in Bujumbura Rural Province. Insecurity continued to cause population displacement throughout Bujumbura Rural Province. According to OCHA, politically-based persecution erupted during the legislative campaign period in June, resulting in the deaths of 16 people. On July 3, OCHA reported clashes between Burundian National Defense Forces (FDN) and FNL soldiers in Isale Commune on July 2, which prompted the temporary displacement of residents of Nyarumpongo and Cirisha collines towards Rushubi town. An assessment of Isale Commune in Bujumbura Rural, conducted by OCHA in late June, concluded that Palipehutu-FNL activity was on the rise, resulting in

forced contributions from families, lootings, targeted killings, political propaganda, and attempted recruitment.

USAID/OFDA food security assessment. Food security in Burundi remained fragile due to a confluence of factors, including late and irregular rains, regional drought, and cassava mosaic disease (CMD). From March 31 to April 9, a USAID/OFDA Agriculture and Food Security Advisor traveled to Kirundo Province to meet with implementing partners and assess the food security situation. The USAID/OFDA advisor cited three percent population growth, IDP and refugee returns, small farm plots, and low crop diversity as additional factors that have negatively impacted food security in the province.

Preliminary reports from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently forecasted that cassava production would decrease 30 to 40 percent in the 2005 harvest B compared to 2004 Season B yields due to the effects of CMD. The Season B is the most important of three agriculture seasons in Burundi and represents approximately 55 percent of total food harvested annually. According to the USAID/OFDA Food Security Advisor, CMD has significantly debilitated a key coping mechanism traditionally employed during times of drought and poor harvest of other crops. USAID/OFDA will continue to monitor the geographic progression of the disease from north to south, and the resulting food security implications in order to proceed with appropriate food security and agriculture activities.

Banana bacterial wilt poses a potential threat to banana cultivation and general food security in Burundi. Bananas represent a vital staple in the Burundian diet already vulnerable due to the reduced availability of cassava. The bacteria, which has infected banana crops in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, causes banana fingers to ripen prematurely and rot while still on the plant. USAID/OFDA will monitor the spread of the disease in the region in an effort to identify possible mitigation strategies.

WFP pipeline breaks. According to WFP, the relief food pipeline will become severely stressed in August unless distribution schedules are modified. To ensure the continuation of food distribution to priority beneficiaries, WFP has adopted measures including reductions in and suspensions of lesser priority programs, affecting food for work, food for training, distributions to school canteens and Mother Child Health programs, and the distribution of family rations to supplementary feeding centers in Kirundo, Muyinga and Bujumbura Rural provinces. WFP reported a shortfall of approximately 20,000 metric tons (MT) or an estimated \$12 million. In response to the shortage, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) recently contributed an additional 4,640 MT of mixed commodities for a total FY 2005 contribution of 26,620 MT to date.

Rwandan asylum seekers. In early April, approximately 8,000 Rwandans crossed the border into the northern provinces of Ngozi and Kirundo seeking asylum. The arrival closely followed the beginning of the *gacaca* trial process in Rwanda which seeks to investigate human rights violations from the 1994 genocide. UNHCR transferred approximately 1,800 asylum seekers to transit centers farther inland in Burundi before Burundian authorities halted all transfers on April 23. Despite protests from the international community, Burundian authorities, under pressure and with support from the Government of Rwanda, have since classified the asylum seekers as illegal immigrants and in early June forcibly repatriated an estimated 6,000 Rwandans.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Following considerable delays in 2004, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process in Burundi advanced significantly from January to June 2005. According to the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP), as of June 30, a total of 15,458 ex-combatants, including 2,908 children and 476 women, had demobilized in Burundi. Demobilization activities halted temporarily as ONUB troops normally assigned to demobilization sites deployed to other locations during the election period in June. According to the MDRP, plans to demobilize approximately 20,000 members of the *Gardien de la Paix* and *Combattant Militant* militias were scheduled to commence in July.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 8, 2004, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and insecure humanitarian situation. USAID/OFDA FY 2005 programs focus on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, food security and agriculture, emergency health, and water and sanitation, while strengthening the local capacity of early warning

and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. To date in FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$4.7 million through eight implementing partners, including two U.N. agencies, for relief assistance.

USAID/FFP continues to support the WFP Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which targets between 1.9 and 2 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP aims to maintain and improve the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable populations while promoting the rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level. To date in FY 2005, USAID/FFP has provided an estimated 26,620 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$15.9 million.

In support of peace process advances, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided \$5.4 million in FY 2005 to date. USAID/OTI strengthens local capacities to benefit from and contribute to the peace process through implementing partners PADCO, Inc., the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS), and the local NGO African Strategic Impact (ASI). USAID/OTI programs include community-based leadership and conflict mitigation training, vocational skills training, community conflict mitigation initiatives, and media programming.

To date in FY 2005, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided more than \$15 million to UNHCR and \$2.72 million to WFP for the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees. In addition, State/PRM has provided approximately \$3.8 million to date in FY 2005 to support organizations assisting Burundian refugees in Tanzania, including UNHCR, WFP, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and NGOs.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CONCERN	Nutrition	Bujumbura Rural	\$216,170
CRS	Food security and agriculture	Bubanza, Gitega, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ruyigi	\$750,000
GVC	Food security and agriculture, nutrition	Bujumbura Rural	\$700,000
IARC	Food security and agriculture	Countrywide	\$250,000
International Medical Corps	Nutrition, capacity building	Kirundo, Muyinga, Rutana	\$1,368,623
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Water and sanitation	Bujumbura Rural	\$319,803
IRC	Water and sanitation, capacity building	Muyinga	\$324,070
Tearfund	Food security and agriculture	Kirundo	\$662,459
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Health, coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Humanitarian air transportation	Countrywide	\$150,000
USAID/Burundi	Staff support		\$66,268
USAID/REDSO	Administrative support		\$168,805
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$4,776,198
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	26,620 MT P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,902,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$15,902,900
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
PADCO, WWICS, ASI, Administrative	Community-based reintegration	Countrywide	\$5,400,000
TOTAL USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			\$5,400,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Refugee repatriation and reintegration	Countrywide	\$15,250,000
WFP	Food assistance for Congolese refugees and returning Burundian refugees	Countrywide	\$2,720,000
Other (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, and NGOs)	Assistance to Burundian refugees in Tanzania	10 camps in Western Tanzania	\$3,780,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$21,750,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2005			\$47,829,098

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of July 19, 2005.²Estimated value of food assistance.


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